

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3691

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2615

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN/EGYPTIAN MERGER COMMUNIQUE

REF: CAIRO 2540

SUMMARY: SADAT/QADHAAFI MEETINGS IN CAIRO CONCLUDED AUGUST
29 WITH DECREE ESTABLISHING UNITY STATE. DECREE IS LONG ON
INSTRUMENTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND STUDY, AND VERY SHORT
ON CONCRETE MEASURES TO BE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1. IN EFFECT,
IT SIGNIFIES CAPITULATION BY QADHAAFI TO EGYPTIAN POSITION
THAT UNITY, IF IT IS TO OCCUR AT ALL, SHOULD BE CARRIED
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OUT IN STAGES.

1. ON AUGUST 29, UNIFIED EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN POLITICAL COMMAND (I.E., SADAT AND QADHAIFI) ISSUED ORDER FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITY STATE. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF ARTICLES OF ORDER.

ARTICLE I: UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND "SHALL ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITY STATE;" THE COMMAND WILL CONTINUE ITS FUNCTION UNTIL ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITY STATE IS COMPLETE.

ARTICLE II: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL BE FORMED SEPTEMBER 1. IT WILL BE COMPOSED OF 50 MEMBERS DRAWN FROM EGYPTIAN POEPLAS ASSEMBLY, AND 50 FROM LARG PEOPLES COMMITTEES. ASSEMBLY'S TERM WILL END UPON PUBLICATION OF PLEBISCITE RESULTS.

ARTICLE III: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IS CHARGED WITH FORMULATION OF CONSTITUTION OF UNITY STATE AND WITH NAMING ITS PRESIDENT.

ARTICLE IV: PUBLIC REFERENDUM WILL BE CONDUCTED ON CONSTITUTION AND PRESIDENT AFTER ASSEMBLY HAS APPROVED THEM.

ARTICLE V: AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1973, A "CLEARING ARAB DINAR" WILL BE ISSUED.

ARTICLE VI: ECONOMIC FREE ZONE ON BOTH SIDES OF EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN BORDER WILL BE ESTABLISHED AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1973.

ARTICLE VII: ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1973, TWO RESIDENT MINISTERS WILL BE EXCHANGED, ONE TO BE AT CAIRO, THE OTHER TRIPOLI, FOR FOLLOW-UP PURPOSES.

ARTICLE VIII: UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND WILL ISSUE ON SEPTEMBER 1 DECREE FORMING HIGHER PLANNING COUNCIL, TO INCLUDE AS MEMBERS PRESIDENTS OF EGYPT AND LIBYA, MINISTERS OF FINANCE, ECONOMY AND PLANNING, AND A SEC GEN.

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ARTICLE IX: DRAFT LAWS OF MERGER COMMITTEES WILL BE REFERRED TO UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND FOR FURTHER STUDY.

ARTICLE X: MERGER COMMITTEES ARE TO BE LIQUIDATED. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT COMPOSED OF RANKING ELEMENTS FROM BOTH STATES WILL BE FORMED. IT WILL SUPPORT HIGHER PLANNING COUNCIL AND CONSTITUENT COMMITTEES IN THEIR ACTIVITIES.

ARTICLE XI: UPON PROCLAMATION OF REFERENDUM RESULTS, HIGHER PLANNING COUNCIL, TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND FUNCTIONS OF TWO EXCHANGE RESIDENT MINISTERS (ARTICLE VII) WILL BE TERMINATED.

ARTICLE XII: AUTHORITIES OF BOTH STATES WILL CARRY OUT THIS DECREE.

ARTICLE XIII: THIS DECREE WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM DATE OF ISSUE.

2. IN CONJUNCTION WITH DECREE, SADAT AND QADHAAFI ISSUED STATEMENT TO PEOPLE OF EGYPT AND LIBYA EMBODYING PRINCIPLES OF UNITY. STATEMENT NOTES INTERDEPENDENCE OF ARAB NATION, CONTINUITY OF ARAB REVOLUTION, AND NEED FOR ARAB UNITY AS MEANS OF "RATIONALIZING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT", USING WEAPONS OF SCIENCE AND FAITH.

3. FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF DECREE AND STATEMENT AUGUST 29, QADHAAFI RETURNED TO TRIPOLI. AHRAH STATES THAT BOTH PRESIDENTS WILL SIGN TODAY, AUGUST 30, EXECUTIVE ORDERS IMPLEMENTING UNITY STEPS AS EMBODIED IN DECREE, INCLUDING THOSE FOR FORMATION OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, HIGHER PLANNING COUNCIL, CLEARING DINAR, ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE ZONES, AND EXCHANGE OF MINISTERS. AHRAH ALSO NOTES THAT SADAT HAS ORDERED FIRST DEPUTY PRIMIN HATEM, MININT SALEM, RIF'AT MAHGOUB FROM ASU SECRETARIAT, AND GAMAL OTEIFI FROM PEOPLES ASSEMBLY TO ATTEND SEPTEMBER 1 CEREMONIES IN TRIPOLI; THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SEPARATE MILITARY DELEGATION.

4. COMMENT: ALMOST A YEAR AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT BY SADAT AND QADHAAFI IN TRIPOLI OF THE UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND AND THE CREATION OF MERGER COMMITTEES TO MAKE SPECIFIC CONFIDENTIAL

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RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE FINAL FORM OF UNITY, THE PRESENT DECREE IS AN ANTI-CLIMAX. FIRST OF ALL, AND PERHAPS MOST SURPRISINGLY, THERE IS NO DECLARATION OF UNITY PER SE. THE NEW ORGANIZATIONS DECREE CREATES--THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, A HIGHER PLANNING COUNCIL AND A TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT--MERELY REPLACE MERGER COMMITTEES CHARGED WITH THE SAME FUNCTIONS. IT FINESSES VIRTUALLY EVERY MAJOR DECISION WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN REACHED DURING THE PAST YEAR. IT PROVIDES FOR CONCRETE STEPS TO BE SPUN OUT OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME BY THE CREATION OF BODIES DESIGNED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. IN EFFECT, THE DECREE REPRESENTS A VICTORY BY SADAT OVER QADHAAFI. IT PRESUMES THAT IF MERGER IS TO OCCUR AT ALL, IT WILL TAKE PLACE BY SLOW AND DELIBERATE STAGES.

5. PROVISION FOR A "CLEARING ARAB DINAR" APPARENTLY REFERS TO AN OPEN BOOK ACCOUNT WHEREBY LIBYA BUYS IMPORTS FOR EGYPT TO BE OFFSET BY FUTURE DELIVERIES OF EGYPTIAN GOODS TO LIBYA. IF THIS IS CORRECT INTERPRETATION, IT WILL PROVIDE AN INTEREST-FREE SOURCE OF CAPITAL FOR GOE. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THE ECONOMIC FREE ZONES ON EACH SIDE OF THE BORDER WILL OPERATE.
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